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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. §371**

PET 1761

U.S. APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR §1.5)

**09/297737**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

PCT/FR97/02005

7 November 1997

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

7 November 1996

TITLE OF INVENTION

CATALYST HAVING AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT OF GROUP VIIB AND ITS USE HYDRO-TREATING

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Juliet QUARTARATO et al

**Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:**

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. §371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. §371.
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. §371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. §371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19<sup>th</sup> month from the earliest claimed priority date
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(4)).
10. ☒ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(5)).

**Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:**

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
  - ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:

Amended sheets of claims (pgs. 1-4).

**DO NOT USE FOR EXAMINATION. CLAIMS ARE BASED UPON ORIGINAL APPLICATION.**

PCT/FR97/02005

PET 1761

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR §1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):**

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$840.00  
 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR §1.482)..... \$670.00  
 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR §1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR §1.445(a)(2))..... \$760.00  
 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR §1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR §1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO..... \$970.00  
 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR §1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)..... \$96.00

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**

\$840.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. §1.492(e)). ☐ 20 ☒ 30

\$130.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	21 - 20 =	1	x \$ 18.00	\$18.00
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$ 78.00	\$0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ \$ 260.00

**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =** \$988.00

Reduction of ½ for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 C.F.R. §§1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

**SUBTOTAL =** \$988.00Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. §1.492(f)). ☐ 20 ☐ 30**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =** \$988.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 C.F.R. §1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 C.F.R. §§3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property.

**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =** \$988.00
 Amount to be  
 refunded:  
 charged:

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$988.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 13-3402 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 C.F.R. §§1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 C.F.R. §1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Filed: 7 May 1999

IWM:jvbp

19,544  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

International Application No. : PCT/FR97/02005  
International Filing Date : 07 November 1997  
Priority Date Claimed : 07 November 1996  
Applicant(s) (DO/EO/US) : QUARTARARO, Juliette et al  
Title: CATALYST HAVING AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT OF GROUP VIIB AND ITS USE  
HYDRO-TREATING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified International application as follows prior to calculation of the fees.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the following claims:

<b>Claim 3,</b>	<b>Line 1:</b>	Delete "any one of claims 1 to 2" and insert --claim 1--.
<b>Claim 4,</b>	<b>Line 1:</b>	Delete "any one of claims 1 to 3" and insert --claim 1--.
<b>Claim 5,</b>	<b>Line 1:</b>	Delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and insert --claim 1--.
<b>Claim 7,</b>	<b>Line 1:</b>	Delete "any one of claims 1 to 6" and insert --claim 1, further--.
<b>Claim 9,</b>	<b>Line 1:</b>	Delete "any one of claims 1 to 8" and insert --claim 1--.
	<b>Line 5:</b>	After "hydro-dehydrogenating" insert --metal--.
	<b>Line 6:</b>	Delete "0,01" and insert --0.01--.

10. (Amended) [Use of a catalyst according to any one of claims 1 to 9] A process for the [transformation] hydrotreating of hydrocarbon feeds[.] , comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feed with a catalyst according to claim 1.

**Please delete claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Claim 12, Line 1:** Delete "Use according to any one of claims" and insert --A process according to claim"; delete "to 11"; delete "used".

**Claim 13, Line 1:** Delete "Use" and insert --A process--; delete "of the catalyst".  
**Line 2:** Delete "hydrocarbonated" and insert --hydrocarbon--.

**Claim 14, Line 1:** Delete "Use" and insert --A process--; delete "any one of claims 11 to 13" and insert --claim 11--.

**Please add the following new claims:**

--15. A catalyst according to claim 3, in which the group VIII element is cobalt or nickel.

16. A catalyst according to claim 15, further comprising at least one group VIIA metal.

17. A catalyst according to claim 16, in which said group VIIA element is fluorine.

18. A process for the hydrotreating of hydrocarbon feeds, comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feed with a catalyst according to claim 9.

19. A process for the hydrotreating of hydrocarbon feeds, comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feed with a catalyst according to claim 15.

20. A process for the hydrotreating of hydrocarbon feeds, comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feed with a catalyst according to claim 16.

21. A process for the hydrotreating of hydrocarbon feeds, comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feed with a catalyst according to claim 17.

**REMARKS**

A principle purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiply dependent claims and the fee associated therewith, Applicants reserving the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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WO 98/19791

PCT/FR97/02005

**CATALYST THAT COMPRISES AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT OF GROUP VIIB AND  
ITS USE IN HYDROTREATMENT**

This invention relates to a catalyst and a process for the transformation of hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks and in particular hydrotreatment. The catalyst comprises at least one metal of group VIIB [group 7 according to the new notation of the periodic table (Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 76th Edition, 1995-1996), i.e., rhenium, manganese and technetium, preferably rhenium and manganese, even more preferably rhenium, and at least one hydro-dehydrogenating metal and at least one porous matrix, generally of amorphous oxide or poorly crystallized type. The hydro-dehydrogenating element is selected from among the non-noble metals of group VIII and the metals of group VIB, preferably molybdenum and tungsten. The catalyst also contains phosphorus, boron or silicon and optionally at least one element of group VIIA (group 17), preferably fluorine.

This invention also relates to the use of the catalyst for the transformation of hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks such as the petroleum fractions, the fractions that are obtained from carbon, etc... and more particularly the hydrotreatment that primarily includes the reactions of hydrodenitrating, and/or hydrodesulfurization, and/or hydrodemetallization, and/or hydrodeoxygenation, and/or hydrogenation-hydrodearomatization.

Hydrotreatment takes on increasing importance in the practice of refining with the growing necessity to reduce the amount of sulfur, nitrogen and aromatic compounds in the petroleum fractions. This results, on the one hand, primarily in the importing of crude oils that are increasingly rich in heavy fractions, low in hydrogen and rich in heteroatoms, including nitrogen and sulfur, and, on the other hand, in specifications on the contents of sulfur and aromatic compounds that are imposed in various countries for the commercial fuels.

The current processes of catalytic hydrotreatment use catalysts that can promote the main reactions that are useful for exploiting heavy fractions, in particular the hydrogenation of aromatic cores (HAR), hydrodesulfurization (HDS), hydrodenitrating (HDN) and other hydroeliminations. The hydrotreatment is used for treating feedstocks such as gasolines, gas oils, vacuum gas oils, atmospheric or vacuum residues that may or may not be deasphalted. For example, cracking processes and catalytic hydrocracking processes are indicated for the pretreatment of the feedstocks. The influence of this hydrotreatment prior to the overall output and the service life of the cracking and/or hydrocracking catalyst is all the more important since more active hydrotreatment catalysts are used in hydrodenitrating and in hydrodesulfurization. At least one hydrotreatment stage is usually integrated into each of the schemes that are known for upgrading heavy petroleum fractions.

These catalysts that are used in hydrotreatment combine a matrix with a large surface area (generally 100 to 800 m<sup>2</sup>·g<sup>-1</sup>)

having a weak to strong surface acidity and a hydrogenating function that is provided by at least one metal of group VIB of the periodic table such as chromium, molybdenum or tungsten and/or at least one non-noble metal of group VIII such as iron, cobalt or nickel.

A catalyst that contains molybdenum or tungsten, cobalt or nickel combined with rhenium or iridium has already been used for the hydrodesulfurization of gas oils, as described in Patent EP-A-0,573,973. An effort has been made to improve the catalyst and the hydrotreatment process.

The invention therefore relates to a catalyst that comprises at least one matrix, at least one metal of group VIIB of the periodic table, and an element that is selected from the group that is formed by phosphorus, boron or silicon, and at least one metal or a combination of metals that ensure a hydro-dehydrogenating function that is selected from the group that is formed by the non-noble metals of group VIII, molybdenum and tungsten.

The non-noble metals of group VIII are iron, cobalt and nickel, and preferably cobalt and nickel are used. The metals of group VIB that are used are advantageously molybdenum and tungsten. Preferably, at least one metal of group VIII is combined with Mo or W. An additional element selected from the group that is formed by P, B and Si (i.e., phosphorus or boron or silicon). Optionally at least one halogen (element of group VIIA) is present, preferably fluorine.



Phosphorus, boron or silicon is preferably deposited on the substrate, for example by impregnation, and is then not introduced in matrix form.

The catalyst according to the invention is generally in substrate form, i.e., it comprises a matrix that performs in particular the substrate role; it could be in bulk form, i.e., it does not comprise a matrix.

The catalyst, in particular for hydrotreatment, generally contains in % by weight relative to the total mass of the catalyst:

- 0.01 to 99.7% and preferably 0.01 to 95% and even more preferably 0.01 to 85% of a generally amorphous matrix,
- 0.01 to 50%, preferably 0.05 to 40%, and even more preferably 0.1 to 30% and generally 0.1 to 20% of at least one metal of group VIIB, such as manganese, technetium or rhenium, preferably rhenium or manganese, even more preferably rhenium,
- 0.01 to 50% of non-noble hydro-dehydrogenating metal (metals) of group VIII and/or hydro-dehydrogenating metal (metals) of group VIB, and more specifically if a non-noble metal (metals) of group VIII is present, its content is 0.01 to 20%, preferably 0.05 to 15%, and even more preferably 0.1 to 12%, and if a metal (metals) of group VIB is present, its content is 0.01 to 30%, preferably 0 or 0.01 to 25% and even more preferably 0.01 to 20%,

- 0.01 to 20%, preferably 0.01 to 15% of an element that is selected from the group that is formed by the elements Si, P and B, (Si or P or B) and preferably phosphorus or boron,
- 0 to 15%, preferably 0 to 10% of at least one halogen, i.e., an element that is selected from the group VIIA, preferably fluorine.

The substrate catalysts of this invention can be prepared by any method that is well known to one skilled in the art.

The preferred process for preparation of the catalyst of this invention generally comprises at least the following stages:

- a) A solution is formed that contains at least the following compounds: a solvent, at least one source of an element of group VIIB, at least one source of an element of group VIII, and/or at least one source of an element of group VIB, at least one source of an element that is selected from the group that is formed by the elements: P, B and Si, optionally a source of an element that is selected from among the halogens,
- b) the substrate (the matrix) is wetted or impregnated by said solution, and said mixture is kept at a temperature of between ambient temperature and 80°C for several hours,
- c) the moist solid that is obtained in stage b) is dried at a temperature of between 80 and 150°C, generally in a furnace, and

- d) the dry solid that is obtained in stage c) is calcined at a temperature that is higher than 150°C, generally under air.

The mixture that is produced in stage a) above can be produced simultaneously or successively, whereby the order is not important, in the same physical space or separately.

It is possible to perform each of preceding stages a) to d) several times, separately or combined with at least one other of preceding stages a) to d), as is known to one skilled in the art. For example, it is possible to perform the succession of stages b), c) and d) at least twice.

Thus, for example, in the preferred case where the metal of group VIIB is rhenium and where the metal of group VIII is nickel, it is possible to impregnate the matrix, for example of alumina, by ammonium perchhenate, to perform a drying at 120°C, then to impregnate by nickel nitrate, to perform a drying at 120°C, and to perform a calcination for example and preferably by dry air in a flushed-bed reactor at atmospheric pressure, for example at 500°C for 2 hours.

It is also possible to perform the synthesis of the catalyst from solids that comprise the element of group VIIB and/or the element of group VIII, whereby said solids are obtained respectively from salts of the element of group VIIB and salts of the element of group VIII, whereby said syntheses are produced simultaneously or successively, whereby the order is not important, in the same physical space or separately; then to perform the mechanical mixing of said solids with the matrix, and

finally, after an optional shaping, to perform the calcination of said mechanical mixture to obtain the catalyst according to the invention.

It is also possible to produce the mixture of powders comprising the source of the element of group VIIB, the source of the element of group VIII, optionally water, the source of the element that is selected from among P, B and Si, and optionally the source of the element of group VIIA and to impregnate the matrix.

The matrix can first be shaped and calcined before impregnation. The shaping can be carried out, for example, by extrusion, by pelletizing, by the oil-drop method, by turntable granulation or by any other method that is well known to one skilled in the art.

The preformed matrix is then optionally calcined under air, usually at a temperature of at least 300°C, commonly from about 350 to 1000°C.

The impregnation of the matrix is preferably carried out by the so-called "dry" impregnation method that is well known to one skilled in the art. The impregnation can be carried out in a single stage by a solution that contains all of the constituent elements of the final catalyst.

The element of group VIIB and/or the element of group VIII, like the element of group VIB (Mo, W), and like the element that is selected from the group that is formed by P, B and Si and the element that is selected from group VIIA can be introduced into the catalyst at various levels of the preparation and in various

ways. Said elements can be introduced, for example, only partly or completely at the time of the kneading of the porous matrix.

The element of group VIII, the element of group VIIB like the element that is selected from the group that is formed by P, B, Si and the element that is selected from among the elements of group VIIA, can be introduced by, for example, one or more ion exchange operations on the calcined matrix with a solution that contains at least one precursor salt of the metal of an element. It can be introduced by at least one impregnation operation of the matrix that is shaped and calcined, by a precursor solution of at least one element, for example a metal of group VIII, whereby any metal precursor of group VIII is preferably introduced at the same time or after any metal precursor of groups VIIB and VIB.

In the case where the metals are introduced by several impregnations of corresponding precursor salts, an intermediate drying stage of the catalyst is generally carried out at a temperature that is generally between 60 and 250°C.

The shaping of the substrate catalyst according to the invention can be an extrusion, a pelletizing, the oil-drop method, a turntable granulation or any other method that is well known to one skilled in the art.

The element sources of group VIIB that can be used are well known to one skilled in the art. For example, it is possible to use oxides, hydroxides, polyoxometallates, alkoxides of formula  $M(OR_1)_3$ , where M is the metal and  $R_1$  is an alkyl radical, oxalates, ammonium salts, salts such as fluorides, chlorides,

bromides, iodides, oxyfluorides, oxychlorides, oxybromides, oxyiodides, phosphates, carbonyl complexes, nitrates, oxynitrates, cyclopentadienyl complexes, thiometallates, and carboxylates. The ammonium salts, nitrates and chlorides are preferably used.

The element sources of group VIB that can be used are well known to one skilled in the art. For example, among the sources of molybdenum and tungsten, it is possible to use oxides and hydroxides, molybdic acids and tungstic acids and salts thereof, in particular the ammonium salts such as ammonium molybdate, ammonium heptamolybdate, ammonium tungstate, phosphomolybdic acid, phosphotungstic acid and salts thereof, silicomolybdic acid, silicotungstic acid and salts thereof, acetylacetonates, xanthates, fluorides, chlorides, bromides, iodides, oxyfluorides, oxychlorides, oxybromides, oxyiodides, carbonyl complexes, thiomolybdates, thiophosphates, acetates, xanthates and thioxanthates, dithiophosphates, dithiocarbamates and dithiophosphinates and carboxylates. The oxides and the salts of ammonium such as ammonium molybdate, ammonium heptamolybdate and ammonium tungstate are preferably used.

The element sources of group VIII that can be used are well known to one skilled in the art. For example, the nitrates, sulfates, phosphates, halides, for example, chlorides, bromides and fluorides, and the carboxylates, for example acetates and carbonates, will be used.

The preferred phosphorus source is the orthophosphoric acid  $H_3PO_4$ , but its salts and esters such as the alkaline phosphates

and the ammonium phosphates. The phosphorus can be introduced, for example, in the form of a mixture of phosphoric acid and a basic organic compound that contains nitrogen, such as ammonia, primary and secondary amines, cyclic amines, the compounds of the family of pyridine and quinolines and the compounds of the pyrrole family.

Many silicon sources can be used. Thus, it is possible to use the ethyl orthosilicate  $\text{Si}(\text{OEt})_4$ , the siloxanes, the halide silicates such as ammonium fluorosilicate  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SiF}_6$  or sodium fluorosilicate  $\text{Na}_2\text{SiF}_6$ . The silicomolybdic acid and salts thereof, and the silicotungstic acid and salts thereof can also be advantageously used. The silicon can be added by, for example, impregnation of ethyl silicate in solution in a water/alcohol mixture.

The boron source can be boric acid, preferably orthoboric acid  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$ , ammonium biborate or pentaborate, boron oxide, boric esters of formulas  $\text{B}(\text{OR})_3$  and  $\text{HB}(\text{OR})_2$ , in which R is a hydrocarbon-containing radical that usually has 1 to 50 carbon atoms and can comprise heteroatoms in the chain or as a substituent on the chain. By way of example of hydrocarbon-containing radicals, it is possible to cite the methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, heptyl and octyl radicals. Groups R in the formulas above can be identical or different from one another. Boron can be introduced by, for example, a boric acid solution in a water/alcohol mixture.

The element sources of group VIIA that can be used are well known to one skilled in the art. For example, the fluoride

anions can be introduced in the form of hydrofluoric acid or salts thereof. These salts are formed with alkaline metals, ammonium or an organic compound. In the latter case, the salt is advantageously formed in the reaction mixture by reaction between the organic compound and the hydrofluoric acid. It is also possible to use hydrolyzable compounds that can release fluoride anions into the water, such as ammonium fluorosilicate  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SiF}_6$ , silicon tetrafluoride  $\text{SiF}_4$  or sodium tetrafluoride  $\text{Na}_2\text{SiF}_6$ . The fluorine can be introduced by, for example, impregnation of an aqueous solution of hydrofluoric acid or ammonium fluoride.

The chloride anions can be introduced in the form of hydrochloric acid or of these salts. These salts are formed with alkaline metals, ammonium or an organic compound. In the latter case, the salt is advantageously formed in the reaction mixture by reaction between the organic compound and the hydrochloric acid.

The catalyst contains an element of group VIIB such as technetium, manganese and rhenium and an element of group VIII such as iron, cobalt, or nickel. Among the metals of group VIIB, it is preferred to use rhenium, and among the metals of group VIII, it is preferred to use cobalt, or nickel. Advantageously, the combinations of the following metals are used: nickel-rhenium, cobalt-rhenium, iron-rhenium, or nickel-cobalt-rhenium.

The catalyst can contain an element of group VIB such as chromium, molybdenum, or tungsten. Among the metals of group VIB, it is preferred to use molybdenum or tungsten. Advantageously, the combinations of the following metals are



used: nickel-rhenium-molybdenum, cobalt-rhenium-molybdenum, iron-rhenium-molybdenum, nickel-rhenium-tungsten, cobalt-rhenium-tungsten, iron-rhenium-tungsten, whereby the preferred combinations are: nickel-rhenium-molybdenum, and cobalt-rhenium-molybdenum. It is also possible to use combinations of four metals, for example nickel-cobalt-rhenium-molybdenum.

The impregnation of the metal of group VIIB or optionally the metal of group VIB can be facilitated by adding phosphoric acid into the solution of the metal of group VIIB or optionally the metal of group VIB, which makes it possible also to introduce phosphorus so as to promote catalytic activity. Other phosphorus compounds can be used as is well known to one skilled in the art.

The catalyst therefore also contains at least one usually amorphous or poorly crystallized porous mineral matrix. This matrix is usually selected from the group that is formed by alumina, silica, silica-aluminas, magnesia, clay, titanium oxide or zirconium oxide, boron oxide, aluminates; and, for example, the aluminates of magnesium, calcium, barium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper and zinc; mixed aluminates, and, for example, those containing at least two of the metals cited above. It is preferred to use matrices that contain alumina, in all of these forms known to one skilled in the art, for example gamma-alumina.

The catalysts that are obtained by this invention are used in general in the form of cylindrical or multilobar extrudates. They generally have a specific surface area that is measured by nitrogen adsorption according to the BET method that is between

50 and 600 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a pore volume that is measured by mercury porosimetry of between 0.2 and 1.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/g, and a pore size distribution that can be monomodal, bimodal or polymodal.

The catalysts according to this invention are used for the transformation of hydrocarbons, in particular for the hydrotreatment of hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks, such as petroleum fractions, fractions that are derived from carbon, etc....

The invention also relates to a process for hydrotreatment of hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks with the catalyst that is described above.

A preferred catalyst for the hydrotreatment contains at least one non-noble metal of group VIII, at least one metal of group VIB, at least one metal of group VIIB and an element that is selected from the group that is formed by phosphorus, boron or silicon.

The feedstocks that are used in the process are generally selected from the group that is formed by gasolines, gas oils, vacuum gas oils, residues that may or may not be deasphalted, paraffinic oils, waxes and paraffins. They generally contain at least one heteroatom such as sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen and optionally at least one metal.

The catalysts of this invention can also be used advantageously during pretreatment of catalytic cracking feedstocks and in the first stage of hydrocracking or mild hydroconversion. They are then usually used in combination with

a zeolitic or non-zeolitic acid catalyst for the second stage of the treatment.

The hydrotreatment conditions, such as temperature, pressure, hydrogen recycling rate, hourly volumetric flow rate, can be very variable based on the nature of the feedstock, the quality of the desired products and installations that the refiner uses. They are well known to one skilled in the art.

The temperature is in general greater than 200°C and often between 250°C and 480°C. The pressure is generally greater than 0.05 MPa and often greater than 1 MPa, ranging broadly up to 30 MPa. The presence of hydrogen is generally necessary with a hydrogen recycling rate generally of at least 50 and often between 80 and 5000 liters of hydrogen per liter of feedstock. The hourly volumetric flow rate is in general between 0.1 and 20 volumes of feedstock per volume of catalyst and per hour.

In the case of a hydrotreatment before hydrocracking, advantageously the temperature will be between 350-430°C, the pressure between 5-20 MPa, the volumetric flow rate between 0.1-5 h<sup>-1</sup> and the H<sub>2</sub>/hydrocarbon volumetric ratio between 150 and 2000. These conditions are particularly advantageous when the hydrocracking is carried out on a zeolitic catalyst.

The catalysts according to the invention are preferably (and in particular for the hydrotreatment) subjected to a sulfurization treatment that makes it possible to transform, at least in part, the metallic radicals into sulfides before carrying out the hydrotreatment, and generally therefore before they are brought into contact with the feedstock that is to be

treated. This treatment of activation by sulfurization can be carried out by any method that is known to one skilled in the art.

A standard sulfurization method consists in heating the solid mixture under a stream of a mixture of hydrogen and hydrogen sulfide or under a stream of a mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen sulfide at a temperature of between 150 and 800°C, preferably between 250 and 600°C, generally in a flushed-bed reaction zone.

The results that are important to the refiner are the HDS and HDN activity. The desired goals should be carried out under conditions that are compatible with the economic reality.

The following examples illustrate this invention without, however, limiting its scope.

Example 1Preparation of the Alumina Substrate that Falls within the Composition of the Catalysts

We produced a matrix with an alumina base in a large amount so as to be able to prepare the catalysts described below from the same shaped matrix. To do this, we used a matrix that consists of ultrafine tabular boehmite or alumina gel that is marketed under the name SB3 by the Condéa Chemie GmbH Company. This gel was mixed with an aqueous solution that contains nitric acid at 66% (7% by weight of acid per gram of dry gel) then kneaded for 15 minutes. At the end of this kneading, the paste obtained is passed through a die that has cylindrical orifices with a diameter equal to 1.3 mm. The extrudates are then dried for one night at 120°C and then calcined at 550°C for 2 hours under moist air that contains 7.5% by volume of water. Cylindrical extrudates with a diameter of 1.2 mm that have a specific surface area of 243 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a pore volume of 0.61 cm<sup>3</sup>/g and a monomodal pore size distribution that is centered at 100 Å (1 Å = 10<sup>-10</sup> m) are thus obtained. X-ray diffraction analysis of the matrix reveals that the latter consists only of cubic gamma-alumina with low crystallinity.

Example 2C1-Substrate Mo Catalyst

We added molybdenum to the extruded substrate of Example 1 by dry impregnation in aqueous medium. The molybdenum salt is ammonium heptamolybdate Mo<sub>7</sub>O<sub>24</sub>(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O. After dry impregnation,

the extrudates are dried for one night at 120°C, then calcined at 500°C for two hours under dry air. The final content of molybdenum trioxide is 3.2% by weight, which corresponds to 0.022 mol of the element molybdenum per 100 g of finished catalyst.

### Example 3

#### C2-Substrate Re Catalyst

We added rhenium to the extruded substrate of Example 1 by dry impregnation of a solution of ammonium perrhenate  $\text{NH}_4\text{ReO}_4$  in water. After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at 120°C and then calcined at 500°C for 2 hours under dry air. Catalyst JQ2 is prepared with a final content of rhenium trioxide of 12.8% by weight, which corresponds to 0.06 mol of the element rhenium per 100 g of finished catalyst.

### Example 4

#### C3-Substrate Ni Catalyst

We produced a nickel-type catalyst C3 deposited on alumina by impregnation of the alumina substrate of Example 1 by a nickel nitrate solution  $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . After drying and calcination under the same conditions as the preceding examples, the final nickel content is 2.6% by weight, which corresponds to 0.044 mol of the element nickel per 100 g of finished catalyst.

Example 5C4-Substrate [Ni + Re] Catalyst

A catalyst C<sub>4</sub> that contains nickel and rhenium with an atomic ratio  $r = \text{Ni}/(\text{Ni}+\text{Re})$  equal to 0.44 was then prepared. The two metals are introduced by dry impregnation of the alumina substrate of Example 1 by using ammonium perrhenate  $\text{NH}_4\text{ReO}_4$  and nickel nitrate  $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as precursors. The ammonium perrhenate is impregnated first, then the sample is dried for one night at 120°C and calcined at 350°C for two hours. The nickel nitrate is then impregnated, it is dried for one night at 120°C, and it is calcined at 500°C for two hours under dry air. The contents by weight of oxide of the catalyst obtained are 12.8% of Re trioxide and 2.6% of Ni oxide or respectively 0.06 to 0.044 mol of the elements rhenium and nickel per 100 g of finished catalyst.

Example 6C5-Substrate [Ni+Re+Mo] Catalyst

We took a portion of catalyst C<sub>4</sub> whose production is described in Example 5, and we added molybdenum to it by dry impregnation in aqueous medium by using ammonium heptamolybdate  $\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24}(\text{NH}_4)_6 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as a precursor. After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at 120°C and calcined at 500°C for two hours under dry air. Catalyst C5 is obtained whose respective final contents by weight of rhenium trioxide, nickel oxide and molybdenum trioxide are 12.8%, 2.6% and 3.2%, which corresponds respectively to 0.06, 0.044 and 0.022 mol of the

elements rhenium, nickel and molybdenum per 100 g of finished catalyst.

#### Example 7

##### C6-Substrate [Ni+Re+P] Catalyst

We took a portion of catalyst C4 whose production is described in Example 5, and we added phosphorus to it by dry impregnation in aqueous medium using phosphoric acid  $H_3PO_4$ .

After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at  $120^\circ C$  and calcined at  $500^\circ C$  for two hours under dry air. Catalyst C6 is obtained whose final contents by weight of rhenium oxide, nickel oxide and phosphorus oxide are respectively 10.54% by weight of  $ReO_3$ , 2.1% of  $NiO$  and 4.95% by weight of  $P_2O_5$ .

#### Example 8

##### C7-Substrate [Ni+Re+Mo+P] Catalyst

We took a portion of catalyst C4 whose production is described in Example 5, and we added molybdenum and phosphorus to it by dry impregnation in aqueous medium by using ammonium heptamolybdate  $Mo_7O_{24}(NH_4)_6 \cdot 4H_2O$  and  $H_3PO_4$ . After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at  $120^\circ C$  and calcined at  $500^\circ C$  for two hours under dry air. Catalyst C7 is obtained, whose respective final contents by weight of rhenium trioxide, nickel oxide, molybdenum trioxide and diphosphorus pentoxide are 12.8%, 2.6%, 3.2% and 5.8%, which corresponds respectively to 0.06, 0.044, 0.022 and 0.082 mol of the elements rhenium, nickel, molybdenum, and phosphorus per 100 g of finished catalyst.



Example 9C8-Substrate Mn Catalyst

We added manganese to the extruded substrate of Example 1 by dry impregnation of a solution of manganese nitrate  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in water. After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  and calcined under dry air for two hours. Catalyst C8 is prepared with a final content of manganese dioxide of 5.1% by weight, which corresponds to 0.06 mol of the element manganese per 100 g of finished catalyst.

Example 10C9-Substrate [Ni+Mn] Catalyst

A catalyst C9 that contains nickel and manganese with an atomic ratio  $r = \text{Ni}/(\text{Ni}+\text{Mn})$  that is equal to 0.44 was prepared. The two metals are introduced by successive dry impregnation of the alumina substrate of Example 1 by using manganese nitrate  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and nickel nitrate  $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as precursors. After each dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at  $120^\circ\text{C}$ . The sample undergoes a final calcination at  $500^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 hours under dry air. Catalyst C9 is prepared with a final content of manganese dioxide of 5.1% by weight and a nickel oxide content of 2.6% by weight. The final content of the element nickel and the element manganese deposited on the alumina of Example 1 is 0.06 mol of Mn and 0.044 mol of Ni per 100 g of finished catalyst.

Example 11C10-Substrate [Ni+Mn+Mo] Catalyst

We took a portion of catalyst C10 whose production was just described, and we added molybdenum to it by dry impregnation in aqueous medium by using  $\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24}(\text{NH}_4)_6 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as a precursor. After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  and calcined for two hours at  $500^\circ\text{C}$  under dry air. Catalyst C10 is obtained whose respective final contents by weight of manganese dioxide, nickel oxide and molybdenum trioxide are 5.05%, 2.5% and 3.2%, which corresponds respectively to 0.06, 0.044 and 0.022 mol of the elements manganese, nickel and molybdenum per 100 g of finished catalyst.

Example 12C11-Substrate [Ni+Mn+Mo+P] Catalyst

We took a portion of catalyst C9 whose production is described in Example 10, and we added molybdenum and phosphorus to it by dry impregnation in aqueous medium by using ammonium heptamolybdate  $\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24}(\text{NH}_4)_6 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ . After dry impregnation, the extrudates are dried for one night at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  and calcined at  $500^\circ\text{C}$  for two hours under dry air. Catalyst C11 is obtained whose contents by weight are 4.3% by weight of  $\text{MnO}_2$ , 2.2% by weight of  $\text{NiO}$ , 3.4% by weight of  $\text{MO}_3$  and 5.1% by weight of  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ .

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE CATALYSTS OF THE EXAMPLES

Reference	Catalyst
C4	Mo/alumina
C2	Re/alumina
C3	Ni/alumina
C4	(Ni+Re)/alumina
C5	(Ni+Re+Mo)/alumina
C6	(Ni+Re+P)/alumina
C7	(Ni+Re+Mo+P)/alumina
C8	Mn/alumina
C9	(Ni+Mn)/alumina
C10	(Ni+Mn+Mo)/alumina
C11	(Ni+Mn+Mo+P)/alumina
C12	(Mo+Re+P)/alumina

**Example 14****Gas-Oil Hydrodesulfurization Tests**

The substrate catalysts described above have also been compared in a gas-oil hydrodesulfurization test whose main

characteristics are given in the table below:

Density at 15°C	0.856
Index of refraction at 20°C	1.4564
Viscosity at 50°C	3.72 cSt
Sulfur	1.57% by weight
Simulated distillation	
PI	153°C
5%	222°C
50%	315°C
95%	415°C
PF	448°C

The gas-oil HDS test is conducted under the following operating conditions:

Total pressure	:	3 MPa
Catalytic volume	:	40 cm <sup>3</sup>
Temperature	:	340°C
Hydrogen flow rate	:	20 l/h
Feedstock flow rate	:	80 cm <sup>3</sup> /h

Each of the catalysts is sulfurized before the test by a gas oil/DMDS mixture up to 350°C. The catalytic performances of the catalysts that are tested are provided in Table 2 below. The activity is calculated by taking into consideration that the reaction is on the order of 1.5. The equation linking the

activity and the conversion (% of HDS) is then as follows:

$$\text{Activity} = \left[ \frac{100}{(100 - \% \text{ of HDS})} \right]^{0.5} - 1$$

In Table 2, the activities are expressed in relative activity by assuming that the one of catalyst C2 is equal to 1.

TABLE 2

Activity of the Catalysts in Hydrodesulfurization of Gas Oil

Catalyst	Activity Relative to JQ2	Composition
C2	1	Re/alumina
C4	2.2	(Ni+Re)/alumina
C5	2.6	(Ni+Re+Mo)/alumina
C6	2.7	(Ni+Re+P)/alumina
C7	3.4	(Ni+Re+Mo+P)/alumina
C9	0.8	(Ni+Mn)/alumina
C10	1.1	(Ni+Mn+Mo)/alumina
C11	1.4	(Ni+Mn+Mo+P)/alumina
C12	2.7	(Mo+Re+P)/alumina

The gas-oil HDS performance of the catalysts that contain nickel, rhenium and phosphorus at the same time is in each case superior to the performance of the catalysts that do not contain phosphorus, as the comparison between catalysts C5 and C7 or C4 and C6 shows.

The simultaneous presence of non-noble GVIII, GVI and phosphorus is advantageous (comparison of C4 and C7 or else C9 and C11 or else C7-C12).

WO 98/19791

PCT/FR97/02005

## CLAIMS

1. Catalyst that comprises at least one matrix, at least one metal of group VIIB, and an element that is selected from the group that is formed by phosphorus, boron or silicon, and at least one hydro-dehydrogenating metal that is selected from the group formed by the non-noble metals of group VIII, molybdenum and tungsten.

2. Catalyst according to claim 1, such that the element of group VIIB is rhenium or manganese.

3. Catalyst according to one of claims 1 to 2, such that the element of group VIIB is rhenium.

4. Catalyst according to one of claims 1 to 3, such that the element of group VIII is cobalt or nickel.

5. Catalyst according to one of claims 1 to 4, such that the matrix is selected from the group that is formed by alumina, silica, silica-alumina, clay, magnesia, titanium oxide, zirconium oxide, boron oxide, and aluminates.

6. Catalyst according to claim 5, such that said matrix is alumina.

7. Catalyst according to one of claims 1 to 10 that comprises at least one element of group VIIA.

8. Catalyst according to claim 11, such that said element of group VIIA is fluorine.

9. Catalyst according to one of claims 1 to 8 that comprises, in % by weight relative to the total mass of the catalyst:

- 0.01 to 50% of at least one element of group VIIB,
- 0.01 to 99.7% of at least one matrix,
- 0.01 to 50% of at least one hydro-dehydrogenating element,
- 0.01 to 20% of an element that is selected from P, B or Si,
- 0 to 15% of at least one element of group VIIA.

10. Use of the catalyst according to one of claims 1 to 9 for the transformation of the hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks.

11. Use of the catalyst according to claim 10 for hydrotreatment.

12. Use according to one of claims 10 to 11 such that the feedstock that is used is selected from the group that is formed by gasolines, gas oils, vacuum gas oils, residues that may or may not be deasphalted, paraffinic oils, waxes and paraffins that contain at least one heteroatom such as sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen and optionally at least one metal.

13. Use according to claim 11 of the catalyst in hydrotreatment of hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks prior to their treatment by hydrocracking.

14. Use according to one of claims 11 to 13, in which the catalyst was sulfurized.

(57) **Abstract**

The invention relates to a catalyst for the transformation of hydrocarbon-containing feedstocks, in particular hydrotreatment, comprising at least one metal of group VIIB and at least one hydro-dehydrogenating metal (of the non-noble metals of group VIII and/or the metals of group VIB, preferably molybdenum or tungsten) and at least one porous matrix, generally of the amorphous oxide or poorly crystallized type. The catalyst also contains silicon, boron, or phosphorus. It can also optionally contain at least one halogen.



Docket No.  
PFT 1761

#9

# Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

## English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**CATALYST HAVING AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT OF GROUP VIII AND ITS USE HYDRO-TREATING**

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on 07 November 1997 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/FR97/02085 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.55.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

96/13573

FRANCE

07 November 1996

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

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(Day/Month/Year Filed)

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(Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

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(Filing Date)

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(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.55 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

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(Filing Date)

(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)  
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(Filing Date)

(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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